

## "Lingerie Oft Proclaims the Woman"

By RENE MANSFIELD.

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AND Frenchman once said that if you would know a woman you should look at her, not listen to her. But it is not enough to study her expressions and her costumes; if you would really know her a glimpse into her chiffonier will tell you more than all else. If fresh, sweet dainty muslins, threaded with delicate ribbons and faintly fragrant with sachet meet your prying eyes you may be sure their owner is a woman essentially refined and fastidious.

It is not a difficult matter these days for any woman to have undergarments that are at once pretty and neat and inexpensive. The shops are showing charming models that range in price from the most moderate to the most extravagant.

These are the popular combination garments—those which unite corset cover and drawers seem to be greatly preferred—which can be bought for one dollar. These are reasonably fine as to material, and trimmed with pretty embroidery and lace.

What is called the Empire combination is one of the recent novelties which is gaining favor because of its neat fit over the low-busted corsets now so much worn. It is in the princess drawer style and has a deep Empire yoke, often elaborately lace trimmed.

Another new style of combination garment is the chemise which also serves as drawers. It is cut very scant, and just to the knees. Three buttonholes on the edge in the center of the back piece button up onto the three tiny buttons at the edge of the front breadth, forming thus the drawers.

Cluny lace is probably the most popular of laces for lingerie trimming, although filet and the French and German valenciennes are also used a great deal. Madeira embroideries are often combined with the val laces, as are medallions of embroidery and lace. All trimming is kept very flat, however, so as to preserve the slim lines so necessary to the present modes.

Dream gowns, or more prosaically night robes, show few new features. The slip-over styles remain on the crest of feminine favor, because of their

simplicity and comfort. Cotton crepe, so well liked for summer lingerie, because of the ease with which it is laundered, bids fair to be used considerably this winter, especially for the gowns. It is not only labor-saving, but most attractive, particularly in the dainty Dresden or ring designs.

Somewhat more expensive, but very soft and lovely are the crepe de chine garments that are gaining the increasing consideration of the modish woman. For five and six dollars one can obtain a beautiful gown in delicate pink or blue crepe de chine, charmingly trimmed with cluny lace, and most desirable combinations as low as four.

Crepe de chine is also being used to some extent in the new petticoats. These have considerable more fullness at the bottom, although the tops remain gored snugly, and the finishing ruffles are really scanty, being sometimes pleated fine and pressed flat. Messaline and peau de cygne are well liked because of their supple and lustrous qualities.

Something New in Negligees.

Whether the Cleopatra rest robe

will ever displace the comfortable often picturesque, and more often slovenly, kimona is uncertain, but there is no doubt of its tremendous vogue in Paris, and little that it will gain immediate favor here.

It suggests rather the one-piece frock than the negligee, made as it is somewhat in the form of the slip-over nightgowns with the kimona sleeves. An elaborate gown of this description, which could be produced in the simplest fabrics to good effect, had a foundation of orange colored silk veiled with watermelon pink voile. It was cut from one length of material so that the only seams were those running from under the arms to the feet. The strip of fabric at the center was shaped to fit about the base of the throat, and was slit across and over the shoulders where the garment was fastened with ball buttons of bronze beads. An attractive band of bronze-colored stenciling formed the border about the bottom of the skirt, the neck and the sleeves. Brown silk piped the sleeves and the edge of the neck, and long cords of bronze and gold beads hung from just under the arms on either side. The woman who is clever with her needle will at once recognize the possibilities suggested by this interesting negligee.

Also capable of home reproduction are the pretty French voile dressing sacques, in all the delicate shades which are hand-embroidered in white linen floss. The sleeves are cut in one with the garment and have the embroidery carried about their edge. It also follows the scalloped edge of the sacque and forms the finish for the neck. Either a small round collar or a simple collarless neck are most often seen. The attractive little jacket reaches only a few inches below the waist line

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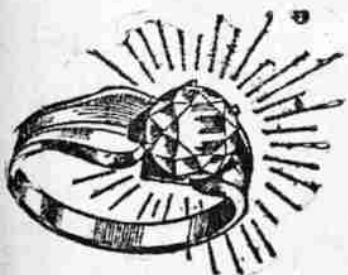
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and has the fronts cut in slightly cut-away effect.

An odd little boudoir cap seen in an exclusive shop the other day was formed of narrow frills of sheer lace placed one above another in cone shape. From the tip of the crown to the outer frill, on one side, was a row of stiff little pale blue bows, overlapping each other, the last one having ends which fell over the shoulder. Can you imagine anything more bewitching?

Corsets Show Few Changes.

Flexibility is the sine qua non of the correct corset. Bone after bone has been whipped out with this result in view, until some of the most successful models boast but two, beside the front and back steels. To give the figure ample support and yet retain the soft, pliant lines of nature without the least suggestion of rigidity, is the function of the present corsets, and, indeed, they are well-nigh ideal in this respect.

They continue very long from the waist down, but the bust is considerably lower on the latest models. The topless styles are very well liked by extremely slender women, who often supplement them with a brassiere.

Brassieres have become an indispensable to the slim woman as to the stout woman. In the first case they add a pleasing contour to the figure, giving it that grace of line that nothing else seems to supply. In the latter case they gently control the flesh and give shapeliness to the most ample figures.

Delicate color ideas are being widely introduced into corset fabrics. Most attractive are those with tiny pink, blue, or other pale colored flowers scattered over them. Narrow strips in colors are also used, and a suggestion of color in the trimmings is often cleverly introduced.

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